

# Grab Bag

## Back to grass: more reasons why

Dr. Richard Cayton of the New Jersey Turfgrass Association agrees that the support for artificial turf just isn't there as it once may have been.

"Grass is much more forgiving, and the economics of synthetics are frightening," says Cayton. Nor is synthetic turf "maintenance free," as many have been led to believe.

"Maintenance [of artificial turf] is just as high," Cayton says, "and it has to be replaced every six to 10 years. And there are non-hit related injuries such as cleats grabbing in the surface."

## Pesticides in perspective

A part per million is equal to: one ounce of salt in 62,500 pounds of sugar; or, one inch in 16 miles; one second in 16 days.

1 part per trillion amounts to a pinch of salt in 10,000 tons of potato chips or one inch in 16,000,000 miles.

## How wet is it?

A contest by the *Oregon Statesman Journal* asked readers to answer that very question, during a period of heavy rain. Here are three of the best one-liners:

It's so wet that...  
"...our alphabet runs from H<sub>2</sub>O."  
"...my sponge cake is leaking."  
"...I saw a catfish using a litter box."

COURTESY LARRY KASSELL

## Trooper uses entomology on the job

Name: Jack Webb.

Occupation: Delaware state trooper.

Specialty: Forensic entomology.

Those are the facts, ma'am. And Webb, an entomologist from the University of Delaware, has made forensic entomology—a little known branch of criminology—his crime fighting niche. Webb has catalogued the types and progression of insects that mark corpse decomposition in the mid-Atlantic area of the U.S.

Pig carcasses were left to decompose on the university research farm, and Webb returned to the scene every so often to capture nesting insects and catalog them as to species, cycle of life and time of collection since the pig's death. Webb has five boxes of insects, from flies the size of pinpoints to large beetles. The catalog of insects has helped solve homicides in Delaware and surrounding states.

"I knew I always wanted to do something positive with my life," says Webb.

"Troopers are here to help and to protect."

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA MUZZI



## Charlie's description of a customer

Charlie Racusin, top man at Environmental Landscape Services, Inc., Houston, donned a chef's outfit at the 1996 ALCA Conference to describe the "recipe" for success. The main ingredients? Quality of service and high-touch service, said Charlie. He added the following description of today's customer:

"I am much more demanding than I was years ago. I've grown accustomed to better things. My needs are more complex. I'm perfectly willing to spend more money with you; I have more money to spend, but I insist on good service. I am above all, a human being and I'm sensitive, especially when I'm spending my money. . . . My ego needs some nourishment, including a friendly, personal greeting from you. It's important that you recognize my importance, that you appreciate my business."

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